

Message Text

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FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PA

SUBJECT: SECURITY ASSISTANCE OBJECTIVES AND GUIDELINES
FY 1977-81

REF: STATE 15489

1. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY STATEMENT ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM IN PARAGUAY IN LIEU OF AN OVERALL ASSESSMENT,
PER PARA. 3B(2) OF REFTEL.

2. NEED FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO PARAGUAY. OUR MODEST
PROGRAM MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE WE DO IN PARAGUAY ENSURES
READY ACCESS TO PRESIDENT STROESSNER AND HIS TOP
MILITARY AND CIVILIAN ADVISERS UPON WHICH MAINTENANCE
OF OUR SEVERAL INTERESTS HERE DEPENDS. (SEE UPCOMING
CASP FOR DISCUSSION OF INTERESTS.)

3. EFFECTIVENESS OF MILITARY AID. IN THIS CONTEXT, I
CONSIDER THE MILITARY AID PROGRAM THE SINGLE MOST
EFFECTIVE TOOL AT MY DISPOSAL. I THEREFORE HAVE WELCOMED
THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE'S ACCEPTANCE OF MY RECOMMENDATION

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OF A YEAR AGO TO EXTEND THE PROGRAM THROUGH FY 80 AT

SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME LEVEL AS IN RECENT YEARS. THE
POM LEVELS FOR FY 76-81 HAVE MY APPROVAL.

4. IMPACT OF OTHER US ASSISTANCE ON US MILITARY AID
PROGRAM. THE MILITARY AID PROGRAM IS AN INTEGRAL PART
OF OUR OVERALL ASSISTANCE TO PARAGUAY, COMPOSED ALSO OF
AID GRANTS AND LOANS, IAGS MAPPING SERVICES, AND PEACE
CORPS. THESE PROGRAMS EMPHASIZE CIVIC ACTION, IMPROVED
INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS, AND HELP TO THE SMALL PARAGUAYAN
FARMER, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER'S PLEDGE
(OAS, APRIL 4, 1974) "TO DEVOTE SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE
NEEDS OF THE POOREST COUNTRIES ..." AS NOTED ABOVE, THE
MILITARY AID PROGRAM IS THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT PROGRAM
FROM THE STANDPOINT OF ACHIEVING ACCESS TO THE GOP AND
SECURING ITS POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR US INTERESTS.

5. IMPACT ON US MILITARY AID PROGRAM OF NON-US MILITARY
AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. THIRD COUNTRY MILITARY
ASSISTANCE TO PARAGUAY INVOLVES RIVALS BRAZIL AND
ARGENTINA, EACH OF WHICH HAVE TAILORED THEIR RESPECTIVE
PROGRAMS (EST. \$400 THOUSAND PER YEAR FOR BRAZIL;
\$220 THOUSAND PER YEAR FOR ARGENTINA) TO SECURE PREFERENTIAL
TREATMENT FROM PARAGUAY'S MILITARY LEADERSHIP
VIS-A-VIS THE OTHER COUNTRY. NEITHER PROGRAM IS DIRECTLY
RELEVANT TO OUR MILITARY AID, THOUGH PARAGUAY DOES LOOK
TO THE US AS A COUNTERWEIGHT TO ARGENTINE OR BRAZILIAN
INFLUENCE HERE, AND REGARDS OUR TOTAL AID EFFORT AS
SYMBOLIC OF A SPECIAL ASSOCIATION ENSURING PARAGUAY
PROTECTION FROM DOMINATION BY EITHER OF THE TWO SOUTH
AMERICAN GIANTS. THE IMPACT ON OUR MILITARY AID PROGRAM
OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED PARAGUAY BY INTERNATIONAL
INSTITUTIONS (DIB AND IBRD) CANNOT BE MEASURED IN
TRADITIONAL MILITARY TERMS.

6. TRENDS TOWARDS SELF-SUFFICIENCY. PARAGUAY WILL NOT
BECOME SELF-SUFFICIENT MILITARILY IN THE FORESEEABLE
FUTURE. THE COUNTRY IS TOO POOR, AND ITS COMPETING
DEMANDS TOO GREAT, FOR IT TO DEVOTE ITS SCARCE RESOURCES
TO TRYING TO ESTABLISH SELF-SUFFICIENCY. FOR THE LONG
TERM, HOWEVER, PARAGUAYAN MILITARY LEADERS HAVE SHOWN
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SOME INTEREST IN SWITCHING THE EMPHASIS OF FOREIGN AID
TO OBTAINING LONG-TERM CREDITS TO FINANCE A NUMBER OF
MODEST ENGINEERING PROGRAMS (MOSTLY COMMUNICATIONS),
UNDER PARAGUAYAN MILITARY AUSPICES. THIS NEW EMPHASIS
MAY PROVIDE A LOGICAL ALTERNATIVE AFTER FY 80 TO OUR
CURRENT PROGRAM WHICH IS PREDOMINANTLY GRANT AID.
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